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REMARKS

Reexamination and reconsideration of the captioned application are requested in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks that follow. Claims 1 to 59 remain for consideration on the merits.

Claims 1, 3, 38, 45, 46, and 55 have been amended herein. Claims 1, 3, 45, 46, and 55 have been amended to specify that the prepolymer mixture is formed in the absence of water or does not contain water. Support for the amendment is found inter alia in paragraph [0032] in the line that bridges pages 7 and 8, and in the first and last sentences of paragraph [0133] in the specification as originally filed. Claim 38 has been amended to encompass a product by process format. Support for the inserted process steps is found in claim 1 as originally filed and in paragraph [0123] at page 38 of the original specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 to 59 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,017,998 to Duan et al. Duan et al. disclose a method for making a one-component polyurethane dispersion by dispersing at least one isocyanate terminated polyurethane prepolymer into a water-based polyurethane dispersion and water to form a polyurethane dispersion mixture. The dispersion mixture is allowed to react until substantially all of the isocyanate groups are reacted. The disclosed prepolymer(s) is simultaneously mixed and dispersed with a polyurethane dispersion (which is water-borne) in a water medium. According to the Duan et al. process, one reactant component is already made into a stable polyurethane dispersion before the other reactant component (the prepolymer component) is reacted therewith.

In sharp contrast, the claimed method (as now amended) requires that at least two different prepolymer components must be pre-mixed in the absence of water before the prepolymer dispersion step for subsequent reaction to form the final dispersion product. The instant claims exclude simultaneous prepolymer mixing and water dispersal as disclosed in the cited patent. There is no identical disclosure in the Duan et al. citation

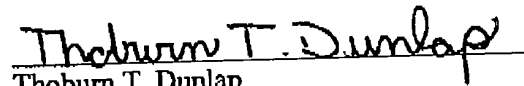
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that anticipates pre-mixing at least two polyurethane prepolymers in the absence of water before forming a prepolymer dispersion. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the citation be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, an early Notice of Allowance with respect to claims 1 to 59 is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any questions, please feel free to contact the undersigned at the telephone number noted below.

Respectfully submitted,


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